



michigan league of
conservation voters

29 November 2010

RE: Offshore Wind Legislation HB6564

Dear Representatives:

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters is delighted that offshore wind legislation HB6564 has been introduced by Rep. Scripps and Rep. Mayes in the Energy and Technology Committee. We strongly support the adoption of this legislation in 2010.

Offshore wind is a rapidly growing industry across this country and globally. Here in Michigan, this is an issue of great importance to our members given that it sits at the nexus of sound economic and environmental policy making. As we work to address Michigan's economic crisis, embracing new, clean energy industries is essential.

It is important to note that there is broad-based support at the federal level for substantial building and deployment of offshore wind across the United States. Due to economies of scale, however, there will likely be only one or two regions in North America, and a handful worldwide, where most of this manufacturing is done. Given that offshore wind equipment is a highly engineered product, manufactured using advanced methods and materials that complement Michigan's great strengths, **we want Michigan to be the home of the North American offshore wind supply chain.** Just as Michigan led the nation during the auto industry boom, so too should Michigan lead the nation in the manufacturing of smart, clean energy technologies, providing home-grown Michigan jobs and allowing companies—new and old—to prosper.

This legislation creates a permitting process so that the waters of the State of Michigan are protected and the development of offshore wind resources is enabled. Adopting this legislation now will give Michigan the opportunity to move ahead of other States in building both offshore wind supply chain businesses and Great Lakes offshore wind deployment and maintenance businesses.

A broad set of stakeholders, including many private citizens, have weighed in on this legislation through the Great Lakes Offshore Wind Council (GLOW) meetings and public hearings, as well as the legislative workgroup. Given the diversity of the 29-member GLOW council, as well as the GLOW Council's five public hearings in three in coastal communities--which included hundreds of Michigan citizens—we feel that there has been sound and substantial public input in the creation of these bills.

With broad public/private sector support, and with Michigan economic and environmental future in mind, we encourage you and your colleagues in the Michigan legislature to adopt this legislation during the remaining days of your 2010 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Wozniak".

Lisa Wozniak
Executive Director, MI LCV